

Ramsey County Cooperative Weed Management Area

Be On The Lookout For **New Invasive Plants In Ramsey County**



These plants could be spreading in the County. *Early detection and eradication* can prevent an invasion.



Yellow iris



Japanese knotweed



Common tansy



Wild parsnip



Miscanthus



Hydrilla



Grecian foxglove



Flowering rush



Cut-leaved teasel

**To report a sighting, please contact the Ramsey Conservation District
(651) 266-7277 paul.erdmann@co.ramsey.mn.us No Samples Please.**

Some images courtesy www.forestryimages.org and Minnesota Department of Agriculture

MORE INFO →

Ramsey County Cooperative Weed Management Area

RCCWMA

Ramsey County
Cooperative Weed
Management Area

New Invasive Plants of Ramsey County

FIVE LEAST WANTED

OTHERS TO LOOKOUT FOR

The RCCWMA is working to locate populations of these species in Ramsey County.

YELLOW IRIS (*Iris pseudacorus*) Perennial aquatic herbaceous plant, grows 1-3'. **Leaves** sword-like, flat basal leaves 0.75" wide. **Flowers** are yellow, showy, 3" wide, two or three at tops of rounded stalks. **Fruit** are oblong 2" capsules. Spreads mainly by **rhizomes**. Also known as yellow flag iris or water flag iris. Planted as a water garden ornamental, it escapes to wetlands, shorelines, ditches, and areas of shallow water.

JAPANESE KNOTWEED (*Polygonum cuspidatum*) Perennial herb with **shrub-like** form grows from 3'-11'. **Stems** are hollow, bamboo-like with swollen leaf joints. **Leaves** 6 inches long, 3-4 inches wide, leaf base straight across to bluntly right angled. **Flowers** white to pink and densely crowded on erect stalks. Spreads primarily by **rhizomes**, root system can reach 6' deep and 65' wide. Threatens riparian corridors, fens, springs, ravines, forests and stream banks. Extremely difficult to eradicate once established.

COMMON TANSY (*Tanacetum vulgare*) Perennial herbaceous plant, 3'-5' tall. **Stems** are smooth or slightly hairy, woody, purplish red near the ground. **Leaves** are alternate, pinnately compound, irregularly lobed, fernlike. Strongly aromatic when crushed. **Flowers** are bright yellow, up to 0.5" wide, in button-like clusters. Produce numerous **seeds** that are dispersed by wind and water, also spreads via short **rhizomes**. Introduced for medicinal and horticultural purposes, it is now spreading into wild areas in the Upper Midwest and Canada.

WILD PARSNIP (*Pastinaca sativa*) Monocarpic perennial-flowers once and then dies, up to 4' high in flowering stage. **Leaves** are alternate, made up of 5-15 oval leaflets along both sides of a common stalk, leaflets are sharply-toothed. **Flowers** are flat-topped, broad clusters 2-6" wide, numerous five-petaled yellow flowers. Produces numerous large **seeds** that remain viable for four years. Thick, long, edible **taproot**. Invades disturbed areas, edges, and open areas. **CAUTION! Plant sap can cause burns if exposed to sunlight.**

MISCANTHUS (*Miscanthus sinensis*, *Miscanthus sacchariflorus*) Also known as Amur or Chinese silver grass, a perennial warm season grass, 6-8' tall, very showy. **Flowers** are silky and plume-like. Reproduces via rhizomes, eventually forming a dense stand. A very popular ornamental grass, over 50 varieties are available. It is now spreading into road sides, woodland borders, and open areas.

These species are not yet found in Ramsey County, or occur in small, isolated populations. Early detection of new populations can prevent invasions.

HYDRILLA (*Hydrilla verticillata*) Submerged aquatic plant that grows in water from a few inches to 20 feet deep. **Leaves** are 0.5-0.75" triangular pointed and occur in **whorls of 4-8 leaves** along the stem. Leaves have **serrated edges** and one or more protruding barbs or bumps along the midrib on the underside. Small **tubers** are present at the rooted base of the plant. Hydrilla has not been found in Minnesota, but is widespread in southern states and has been found as far north as Washington, Indiana, and Maine. A serious threat to lakes and streams.

GRECIAN FOXGLOVE (*Digitalis lanata*) Biennial herbaceous plant, 1st year rosette, 2nd year single to multiple coarse erect stems 2-5' high. **Leaves** 1st year dark green and spear-shaped, 2nd year alternate along stem. Elongated **flower** clusters, cream colored tubular flowers with purplish-brown veins. **Seeds** are in pods with small hooks that cling to fur and clothing. Creates monocultures that threaten savanna and prairie communities. **CAUTION! Toxic to humans and animals.**

FLOWERING RUSH (*Butomus umbellatus*) Perennial aquatic herbaceous plant, 1-5' tall. **Leaves** are sword-like, triangular in cross-section. Flowers are rose-colored, pink, or white, 0.75-1" wide, arranged in umbels. Spreads by seeds and by rhizomes. Flowers in shallow water, in deeper water it grows submerged without flowering. Difficult to identify when not in flower as it resembles many Range is rapidly expanding in the Midwest, flowering rush competes with

CUT-LEAVED TEASEL (*Dipsacus laciniatus*) Monocarpic perennial-flowers once and then dies. **Leaves** are simple, opposite, and have feathering deep lobes. **Stems** and **leaves** are prickly. White **flowers** are small and packed in dense, oval-shaped heads. Can reach 3-7'. One plant can produce 2,000 **seeds**. Teasel grows in open sunny areas that can be wet or dry. Infests roadsides and disturbed areas, but sometimes occurs in high quality prairies, savannas, seeps, and sedge meadows.

For control, management, and more info on these species, please visit the following websites:

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/index.html>
<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/invasives/plants.asp>
<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/factmain.htm>
<http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu/esadocs.html>

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